

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad – Khalifatul Masih IV. On 19th January 1996

The month of Ramadan is that in which the Quran was sent down as guidance for mankind with manifest principles for guidance which distinguish. Therefore whosoever of you finds themselves in this month let them fast throughout. But whoso is ill or on a journey should do so on a corresponding number of other days. Allah desires ease for you and He desires not hardship for you so that you may complete the number and that you may glorify Allah for His having guided you and that you may be grateful.

And when My servants ask thee about me: I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So should they respond to Me and have firm faith in Me that they may be guided aright.

The Holy Quran. al-Baqarah [The Heifer]: 186, 187.

These verses mention the Holy month of Ramadan and its various benefits in terms that automatically draw the reader into the Holy month of Ramadan. All the different meanings of 'in which the Quran was sent down' are correct. The Quran began to be revealed in this month, because annually in the month of Ramadan the angel Gabriel would rehearse *The Noble Quran* revealed to date with the Messenger of Allah and the Quran was rehearsed twice in the final Ramadan. So it is correct to say that the Quran was revealed in Ramadan and it is also correct to say that Ramadan is what *The Noble Quran* was revealed about. The wisdom of this is that no other month can be compared with Ramadan in the consistency with which the Sharia, all its commandments and its taboos are kept and established so as to say that it is what *The Noble Quran* was revealed about. The month of Ramadan is an excellent opportunity to follow all the injunctions given in *The Holy Quran*.

'Therefore whosoever of you finds themselves in this month let them fast throughout.' Here it is commanded that whoever sees Ramadan begin they should fast therein and the month of Ramadan does not begin at one time. Ramadan does not start on the same date in every place, nor is this possible. That is because the times for moonrise differ in all the places of the world. In some places it would be dark, in some places it would be morning, in one place it would be noon, in another the Asr prayer would be said so how is it possible that God would send an injunction contrary to the system He has created. So in this relation the subject of *شَهْدَمَنْ* ['whosoever of you finds themselves'] is of great import. God certainly does not intend that fasts be kept at one time the world over, broken at the same time all over the world and for Eid to be celebrated on one day because the horizons are different. Here *مَنْ* does not mean one individual but a people who share the same horizon. If the horizon is the same then everyone should begin their Ramadan if even if a few men would declare that they have seen the moon.

Would deciphering the moon through mechanical means be considered under *مَنْ شَهِدَ* or not? If scientifically some time has passed following the birth or rising of the moon or its angle is so high above the Earth that it can be observed and it is possible for it to be seen by the naked eye and it is possible to determine this knowledge scientifically. This is an age in

which God has put the laws He himself created to the service of His people and each new discovery that we learn of should be utilised in the service of the faith.

We never accept any evidence when it is impossible to observe the moon with the naked eye. Why has Ramadan not been affiliated with the sun? It is because in the month of Ramadan all worship timed with the sun and the moon has been combined. The 5 obligatory [daily] prayers and Tahajjud are related to the sun. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ has already advised about places where it is daylight for 6 months or a year that prayers be offered there according to the calculation of normal days. All such members of the Community especially those who are nearer to the northern hemisphere or nearer to the southern hemisphere should form Boards that can offer guidance the members of the Communities in this regard. Unity will only be established by following the Unity of God the Creator. So understand His laws and follow them universally under one principle so that even if the times are different it would not harm the unity because you would be parts of the same thread under the command of Allah. This is one of the bounties and the blessings of Ramadan.

To observe fast while traveling is a deception to one's own self. God cannot be pleased by placing unnecessary hardships onto ourselves. A lot of additional prayers should be offered in Ramadan to acquire nearness with and blessings from Allah.